

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 481 - SB 599**

March 12, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the Standards Recommendation Committee (Committee) to identify each standard for English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies as foundational or advanced, based upon the standard's complexity, in the Committee's final recommendations to the State Board of Education made on or after January 1, 2024. Requires Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) scores be disaggregated by performance level results and include proficiency rates for foundational and advanced academic standards.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$45,352,000/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years**

Assumption:

- Determining student proficiency by standard would require a significant increase in the length of TCAP assessments resulting in increased cost.
- A determination of proficiency by standard would require a minimum number of items for each standard. Based on information from the Department of Education (DOE) a minimum of five items per standard is recommended to support this interpretation.
- Existing TCAP tests are designed to summarize performance across standards and rarely achieve this minimum requirement for any one standard. For example, Tennessee's most recent 6th grade math TCAP form assesses 38 unique standards using 52 operational items.
- That assessment is administered in three subparts and takes 125 minutes. Following established psychometric practices, meeting the existing requirements of the legislation would result in an assessment that has 190 items, is administered in 9 subparts, and takes 375 minutes.
- All TCAP items are administered in a field test or trial administration before contributing to a student's score. The additional development needed to comply with the legislation would also require DOE to use standalone field tests of new items in all grades and subject areas.
- The assessment reporting would require a significant overhaul of the current system including the reporting categories currently in place. Each current assessment reports by clusters of standards that make up a reporting category.

- Given the need to field-test new items prior to their use on operational forms, the expansion of development necessary to comply with the proposed legislation will not be implemented until the 2025-26 school year.
- The existing spring 2023 field test would be insufficient to produce compliant test forms for the 2024-25 school year. Field test specifications are typically finalized 12 to 13 months prior to test administration.
- To comply with recommended minimum number of items per standard, the length of the TCAP assessment would result in a threefold increase. The increase in item development costs and increased printing in the lower grades comprise most of the additional costs.
- Item development to support the increase in items required to support a standard-by-standard determination will include the following costs:
  - \$36,300 for summative assessments;
  - \$25,532 for item specification development;
  - \$128,480 for test form documentation for summative assessments;
  - \$10,055,842 for multiple content and bias review meetings;
  - \$535,275 for data review and technical report;
  - \$17,010,625 for item development for paper-based test forms;
  - \$487,500 for operations management; and
  - \$6,797,880 for passage/stimuli and item set development.
- The total increase in state expenditures for item development is estimated to be \$35,077,434 (\$36,300 + \$25,532 + \$128,480 + \$10,055,842 + \$535,275 + \$17,010,625 + \$487,500 + \$6,797,880) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- Administration activities that include program management and technical support services are estimated to increase state expenditures \$664,576 in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- Assessment materials that include content area test books, braille test books, test administrator proctor scripts, and scanning set-up are estimated to increase state expenditures \$5,729,998 in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- Assessment reporting activities that include assessment report delivery systems, raw score reports, roster reports, and parent-reporting portals will increase state expenditures \$3,502,684 in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- DOE will require four additional full-time staff to maintain existing quality control procedures for TCAP development.
- It is estimate that four Education Consultant 2 positions will increase state expenditures by \$377,288 [(\$74,604 salary + \$19,718 benefits) x 4 positions] in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- The total increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$45,351,980 (\$35,077,434 + \$664,576 + \$5,729,998 + \$3,502,684 + \$377,288) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- No impact to local government.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The script is cursive and fluid.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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